

More than **2,400 historical markers** statewide tell Kentucky's story through the people, places and events that have shaped the commonwealth's local communities.



Find a database of markers and their text at history.ky.gov/bring-khs-to-your-town/historical-marker-program/



For supplemental information, photographs and virtual tours of markers by theme, get the **Explore Kentucky History app** or go to explorekyhistory.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Historical Society administers the Kentucky Historical Marker program in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

For more information about the program, call KHS at **502-564-1792** or go to history.ky.gov/bring-khs-to-your-town/historical-marker-program/

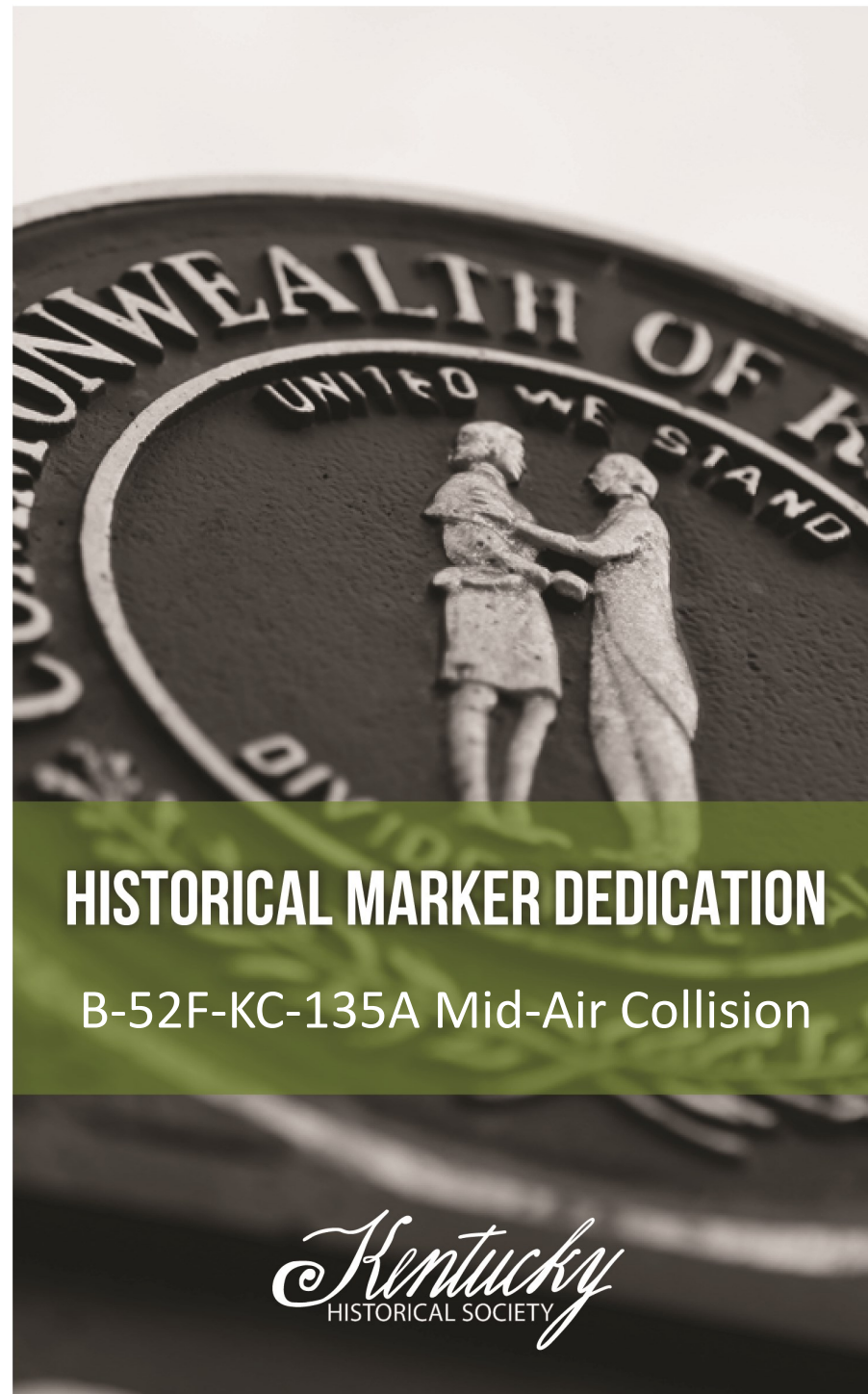


100 W. Broadway | Frankfort, KY 40601

502-564-1792 | history.ky.gov

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KHS is an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.



HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

B-52F-KC-135A Mid-Air Collision





Kentucky Historical Highway Marker #2606

B-52F-KC-135A Mid-Air Collision

On October 15, 1959, Kentucky experienced the Cold War firsthand. Above Hardinsburg, KY, a B-52 bomber collided with a KC-135 tanker during a mid-air refueling. The 2 aircraft were flying a training mission with 2 nuclear weapons aboard. These armed missions would allow aircraft to hit assigned Soviet targets if the U.S. was attacked.

B-52F-KC-135A Mid-Air Collision

After impact, the B-52 instructor pilot, pilot, electronic warfare officer, and radar navigator successfully ejected and were the only survivors. The other 4 B-52 crew members were unable to eject and were fatally injured. None of the 4 crew members from the KC-135 survived the collision. The nuclear weapons were recovered intact in the wreckage.



October 15, 2019 1:00 PM

246 Blacklick Church Lane, Falls of Rough, KY

Color Guard

University of Louisville ROTC Detachment #295

Invocation by

Reverend William Macy, Mount Vernon Cumberland
Presbyterian Church, Leitchfield, Kentucky

Welcome & Introduction of Dignitaries

Jeffrey W. Decker, Colonel, USAF (Retired), Air Force
Association Chapter #407 Historical Marker Project
Officer

Remarks by

Mr. Gene McManaway, President, Air Force Association
Chapter #407
Mr. Maurice Lucas, County Judge-Executive, Breckinridge
County

Dedication address by

Tim Moore, Colonel, USAF (Retired), State Representative,
District 18 and Chair of Veterans, Military Affairs,
and Public Protection Committee

Unveiling of marker by

Ms. Cindy Ridao (Niece of 1Lt John W. Mosby, B-52F Navigator)
CW4 Warren Burgess (Nephew of Capt Lyle P. Burgess, B-52F
Instructor Navigator)
Mr. Scott Helmick (Son of 1Lt Harold E. Helmick, KC-135A
Navigator)



On October 15, 1959, B-52F 57-036 and KC-135A 57-1513 collided during a mid-air refueling, resulting in the loss of eight crew members.

B-52F 57-036 Service Members

*Captain William G. Gutshall, Aircraft Commander

*Major Milton E. Chatham, Instructor Pilot

1Lt Donald Arger, Co-Pilot

*Captain James W. Strother, Radar Navigator

1Lt John W. Mosby, Navigator

*1Lt Gino Fugazzi, Electronic Warfare Officer

Captain Lyle P. Burgess, Instructor Navigator

TSgt Howard L. Nelms, Tail Gunner

KC-135A 57-1513 Service Members

Major Robert H. Imhoff, Aircraft Commander

1Lt William E. Epling, Co-Pilot

1Lt Harold E. Helmick, Navigator

SSgt Paul E. Thomasson, Boom Operator

*Service Members who survived the collision